

Hi

SUMMER 2016

Neighbor!



NEWS & INFORMATION FOR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS
OF THE ROCK CREEK WOODS COMMUNITY

NewsBriefs

WE'RE BACK!

The newsletter is finally back up and running! Many thanks to Maggie Toscano for her herculean efforts to keep it going over the years. We think the newsletter is a great way to stay connected. We hope you all enjoy it and will make your own contributions.

Save the Date!

September is several months off but it's never too early to put the **Labor Day Picnic** on your calendar—Monday, September 5. New neighbors **Luis Franco and Paola Pinto**, have generously taken on the task of organizing it this year. Be sure to contact them to let them know how you can help.

Concerns from the Church

Merlyn Kettering, administrator for the **Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren**, is requesting that RCW neighbors do not dump their trash in Church bins and to please keep all dogs on a leash when the church is in use.

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The 2016 Rock Creek Woods House Tour was such fun! Residents and friends gathered at the home of Valerie Tate and Gregory Arms starting at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 12 where they were treated with a tour and the details on how to see the rest of the homes available for viewing that day. A handout was provided with renovation details each owner kindly supplied.

Many thanks to our wonderful hosts. They were so welcoming and they all generously shared lots of wonderful design ideas.

Thanks also go to those residents who came out to visit, including family and friends! You took the time on a gorgeous day—which did get a little warm—to make the rounds, in good humor, with lots of good questions.

We can't forget to acknowledge fledgling entrepreneurs, Adele Lezec and

Kendall Cox who provided lemonade to thirsty tourists and collected donations to add to the fund to raise money to

purchase copies of the original neighborhood drawings held by the

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2016 House Tour is a Big Success



Left: Audrey Fincher and Annabelle Kaufmann talk design; Top: Adele and Kendall's marketing efforts; Bottom: John Camp, Cindy Camp, Audrey Fincher, Tim Rinkel, Dwight Fincher and Suzy Schmidt get a feel for the Fincher's new kitchen.

Library of Congress. All proceeds from the house tour will be added to that fund.

Finally, many thanks to our Wine & Cheese hosts Julie and Dick Marcis. A perfect end to a perfect day.

Here are the houses featured on this year's tour:

David Roth	3929 Rickover Rd.
Andy and Suzi Schmidt	3909 Rickover Rd
Dwight and Audrey Fincher	3915 Rickover Rd.
Motoko and Henri Lezec	3918 Rickover Rd.
Neal and Heather Cox	3924 Rickover Rd.
Valerie Tate and Gregory Arms	4006 Ingersol Dr.



*Top Photos: Audrey & Dwight Fincher's renovations;
Bottom: Valerie Tate, John and Cindy Camp and Gregory Arms launch the tour from the Tate/Arms home.*

Thoughts on RCW—An interview with Marlyn & Milt Socolar

Julie and Richard Marcis hosted a luncheon for Marlyn and Milton Socolar during which they graciously agreed to talk about their early experiences in the Rock Creek Woods community. The Socolars are original owners of a Goodman house on lower Rickover. The following is an edited transcript of the conversation.

Marcis: What was it like when you moved here?

Milton: It was all mud! Lower Rickover was nothing but a dirt road. There was also the construction of the Connecticut Avenue extension.

Marlyn: Upper Rickover was the first section to be developed and some people had already moved in. We originally came here by chance and were delighted that the community had an “open” housing policy and wasn’t restricted like some other communities. We weren’t going to buy a house in a segregated area. That’s also the reason our children attended Green Acres School in North Bethesda.

Marcis: How did you two meet?

Milton: We met at the University of Maryland where we were both students. I had just returned from the military. Marlyn: I noticed Milt long before I met him, helping other students with math problems and homework. We had mutual friends and even relatives and both came from families that ran little grocery stores.

Marcis: Milton, what work did you do?

Read the full-length Socolar interview online! It’s fascinating!
www.rockcreekwoods.org/blog/

Milton: At that time I was a CPA but I didn’t like accounting so I signed up for law school.

Marlyn: Milton started out as an auditor then moved into legal positions and eventually became Deputy Comptroller

General of the U.S.

Marcis: Marlyn did you work when you moved here?

Marlyn: No, I didn't have time for a regular job. I raised a family and dabbled in drawing and ceramics and pottery.

Marcis: What was the social life like here in the early years?

Marlyn: It gathered nice people, special people. It was a real friendly, welcoming environment. Our closest friends included the Katzes and the Markoffs and Waldmans. It has been a wonderful experience, these modern-style houses seem to attract interesting people.

Milton: There were lots of children so there was always something going on.

Marlyn: There are a lot of wonderful memories. We could go on and on....

A Rain Garden—When it Rains it Stores

When we moved in to 3936 Rickover about 12 years ago, we had a very bleak front yard. Nothing pretty seemed to want to grow there. Then came the first really big rain storm. We watched the water start at Connecticut Ave., head down the sidewalk, picking up force as it went and making a right turn into our front yard. From there it went on to the back yard through a miniature grand canyon at the side of the house. What could we do about it?

On one of our many visits to Brookside Gardens, we came across their model rain garden and found our solution. The garden is located to the right of the entrance to the Conservatories in the area that used to be called the Rock Garden. You can have a look at the garden's construction on the Brookside website. The county expert who designed it referred us to our own designer and contractor. We got a grant from the county for part of the cost of the garden. More about the grant program below.

So what is a rain garden? The Montgomery County rainscapes website describes it as a saucer shaped garden into which water flows that is planted with grasses, flowers, shrubs, and sometimes small trees. They soak up water while providing wildlife habitat.

The basin fills with water for a short amount of time before the water soaks back into the soil. Plants used in these gardens are adapted to survive in short periods of flooding as well as dry soils in between storms.

The official purpose of a rain garden is to reduce polluted stormwater runoff into local streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. In our case it stopped the soil in our front yard from flowing into our backyard during a heavy rain.

If you want to know how to build a rain garden, you can find a very detailed design manual on the Montgomery County website. The garden should be at least 6 to 12 inches deep. The key ingredient is the soil mix at the bottom of the saucer. Typically it's a mix of sand, topsoil, and mulch. The ponding depth of the dish should be about 6 to 12 inches, with a top layer of mulch, then 12 to 24 inches of the water-



These photos show examples of rain gardens installed throughout the Montgomery County.

absorbing soil mix. Our mix is about 3 feet deep, with the captured water draining away in about 24 hours.

Check out <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/water/rainscapes.html>

The good news is that not only does a rain garden help control water flow on your property, you can get a grant from the county for part of the cost. The County offers technical and financial assistance (in the form of RainScapes Rewards Rebates) to encourage property owners to implement eligible RainScapes techniques on their property. There's a \$2,500 lifetime maximum for your property for rainscape projects, including rain barrels, rain gardens, and permeable pavement. See <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/water/rainscapes-rebates.html>. Then even if whenever it rains it pours, you can sit back and watch it store.

—Don & Ann Byrne

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If Your Dog Poops



You must scoop...

Even If No One Sees You!!

They also want to be sure that residents with dogs are cleaning up their dog's waste.

The church has been very generous with us in the use of their facilities and we urge all RCW residents to be respectful of the church property so that we are able to maintain the excellent relationship we've had with Good Shepherd through the years.

Bartering for Time

Kathy Ford distributed palm-size flyers at our last neighborhood meeting with information about the **Silver Spring TimeBank**. Timebanking is a way of giving and receiving to build strong support networks. Services are exchanged using time instead of money. Learn more about how it works at www.sstimebank.org.

RCW Library of Congress Advisory Committee

Visit the blog on our website to keep up-to-date on the committee's efforts to raise funds and coordinate the acquisition of the working and structural drawings from the Charles Goodman collection at the Library of Congress. www.rockcreekwoods.org/blog/

Family Adventure—Letizia Style!

Contributor Tom Klein (who's always had the for nose sniffing out a good story) asked 11-year-old Simona Letizia to write a recap of her family's 2014 Spring Break adventure. Tom had been following the progress of their attempts to get to Germany on a military "space-available" flight and he loved the serendipitous result! Because the newsletter was in "hiatus" it didn't get published until now. We thought you'd love the story as well as the update: the Letizia's actually DID make it to Germany in 2015! And their next adventure is a move in June to Ghana for a three-year stay. We hope that Simona will keep us updated on their African adventures.



Photos Courtesy: Letizia Family



By Simona Letizia

It all started when we spent six hours at BWI on a Saturday night. We had hoped to catch a space-available military flight to Germany for our Spring Break. Unfortunately, we did not make that flight. We thought our chances would be better on Sunday, when we drove to the Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware. Our chances were looking good when we left our driveway, but by the time we arrived two hours later, there were no more seats available. But the man at the check-in desk said, if we signed the dotted line right away, we could be on a direct flight to Hawaii in an hour! My mom quickly removed all of our heaviest clothes and German tour books from our suitcases, and off we went. We took a C-5 plane, normally used for cargo and medivacs. Ten hours later, we woke up to palm trees and beaches!

We went to a traditional luau where we got to drink straight out of a coconut. We played on the beach and rode in a kayak. We sampled lots of shaved ice—I had the green tea flavor with sweet beans and rice treats. We snorkeled at Hanauma Bay and even saw a sea turtle and a fish the size of my little sister. One of my favorite memories was hiking two miles in a tropical rain forest. Now I know what Paradise is like!

Our journey home on a C-17 made our first journey look like first class! But that was all part of the adventure.